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ARTICLES
OF THE
FALKIRK SOCIETY,

BEGUN UNDER THAT TITLE,

MAY 15, 1749;

Corrected, amended, and ordered to be printed

BY THE

SOCIETY,

SPICER-LANE, QUAY-SIDE, NEWCASTLE,

FEBRUARY 20th, 1796.

ROBERT Mc DONALD, }
CHARLES PIERSEY, } STEWARDS

R. KAY, CLERK.

"Be kindly affectionate one to another." ROM. xii. 10

BROTHERLY LOVE, is the Foundation-stone,
To raise the firm and lasting structure on,
That we would never wish for to erase,
Whilst govern'd by such equitable Laws.

R. K.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED BY EDWARD WALKER,

1796.

WE, the MEMBERS of this SOCIETY,
being Protestants, and loyal Sub-
jects to His Majesty King GEORGE;
having associated together for several
Years, (not for any *schismatical*, *factious*,
or *disloyal Design*, against Church or
State; but for the good of each other:
To the Intent that a FUND may be
established for our Relief and Support,
and for the Ease of this Place, when
Affliction of any Kind doth overtake us;)
do agree and oblige ourselves strictly to
observe the following ARTICLES.



ARTICLES
OF THE
FALKIRK SOCIETY, &c.

ARTICLE I.

OF ADMISSION.

THAT the Members of this Society shall all be true Protestants, and Subjects to his Majesty King GEORGE; of good characters, healthful constitutions, and sound bodies, free from every defect which may render them incapacitated from endeavouring for themselves and families. — None who belong to another society of this kind to be admitted; nor any idle, lazy, nor disorderly person, — no drunkard, swearer, nor sabbath-breaker; — no whoremonger nor unclean person; — none who lieth under scandal nor church censure; — nor none above forty years of age. All members to be admitted in the presence of, and by the consent of the company. If desired, they shall bring certificates of the above qualifications within twelve weeks after their admission, otherwise forfeit their entrance money and be excluded.

ARTICLE

NOTE. Charges of admission to each new member, are 4s. 6d. — To pay 6d. extra the next quarter, for the mournings, and 2s. 7d. every quarter-day, and 7d. for each funeral that shall happen between quarters.

¶ ALL country members are chargeable with ad. more each quarter, than town members.

ARTICLE II.

OF MEETING DAYS.

THAT the anniversary day shall be annually on *St. Stephen's day*, the 26th of December (except that day fall on the Saturday or Sunday, then it shall be on the Monday following) on which every member, within 20 miles, shall be in the club-room with a BLUE BONNET, at ten o'clock in the morning.

The half-year-days shall be on the third Saturday of May, and the third Saturday of November, when each member shall be in the club-room at four o'clock in the afternoon, to pay their subscription. On each of these days, two stewards, four assistants, and four committeemen to attend the funerals, shall be chosen according to their seniority on the list; the first called to each of these offices shall be next to him last called upon for the same office.

The stewards shall choose each three men for the company's committee, and each six men for an inspecting committee, which with the beadle will make thirteen. None to stand any office but such as live within one mile of the town walls. If in the choice of stewards it go once through the roll, the old stewards shall nominate each two men, whether present or absent from the club-room; but none to be nominated, except they have been a full year out of office, and then the society shall chuse two of these by vote. A dinner shall be provided by the landlord at the company's expence, every head-meeting.

meeting-day, if the company and landlord can agree.

The quarterly meetings shall be on the third Saturday of February, and the third Saturday of August, at four o'clock in the afternoon, when the stewards, assistants, and clerk shall attend. Each member's contribution money must be paid when called for; * if not ready at calling the absents of the first roll, the fine will be marked. All dues must be paid before the books are shut; what is not paid will remain debt, and cannot be taken before the next quarterly-meeting; and debtors will be deprived of all benefit, except their funeral charges.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE AUTHORITY AND OFFICE OF STEWARDS, ASSISTANTS, AND COMMITTEE-MEN.

THE stewards are always to sit in the chief place at all meetings; to have power to appoint the hour of meeting at all occasional meetings, that may be necessary to be called for the society; and likewise to order in what manner the business is to be conducted. — They shall see all business properly transacted, and all accounts and fines placed orderly in the books; — keep good order and decorum in the club-room; — fine every offender, and see that every transgression be fined according to articles: — they shall do justice to both the articles and members, in taking in and laying out all cash from, and to

* No more copper shall be taken by any steward, than what makes the odd change in payment.

to the members,* &c. The eldest steward to keep one key of the box, the bond of security, and the landlord's promissory note, which is to be renewed every quarter for the cash in stock : — The other steward to keep another key, and the landlord the other, to prevent fraudulent practices.

The assistants are to keep peace and good order in the club-room while business is transacting ; — they, with the stewards, company's committee, and clerk, shall meet, when warned by the steward's order, to determine such causes or disputes as may arise in the society, and such unforeseen cases as are not specified in the articles.† The inspecting committee are to examine the society's books and accounts every half year, — to see that justice hath been done to the society by the old stewards.‡ — The stewards and assistants to visit the sick within the bounds of warning, at least twice a week, and pay them in turns, as their sick money becomes due, from the day that they declare on the box, until they declare off. — All members within the bounds of warning, must personally declare off to a steward. — The stewards and assistants are to visit sick members, not exceeding six miles, once a week, and to be allowed two-pence a mile

* The stewards are to be accountable for every loss the society or its members may sustain through their neglect.

† The company's committee to be allowed 2s. 2d. for drink each committee meeting, to be kept off the company's drink on the quarter-day.

‡ The inspecting committee to be allowed 2s. 6d. from the fund for drink, and both committees are to have forty-eight hours warning, or there can be no fine. All fines at committees to be drunk by the committee.

a mile for expences; — the stewards may go further if they chuse, but they will not be allowed more than one shilling. — The stewards are not to pay benefit to any member that is debtor on the books; — to stop payment to any found working, or doing any thing they ought not, before declaring off the box, and report it to the society; — to receive the cash for the payment of the sick from the landlord.*

ARTICLE IV.

OF BENEFIT TO MEMBERS IN LIFE, OR AT DEATH;
ALSO TO WIVES AND WIDOWS.

THAT any clear intitled member, who has been a full year in the society, if he be rendered incapable of working, either by indisposition or accident, shall, on the eighth day, after giving information thereof to the steward, receive five shillings; and if he continues ill, it shall be continued twenty-six weeks; then half-a-crown for twenty-eight weeks, making in all TEN POUNDS. — If a member recovers before he has received his full benefit of ten pounds, and declares on the box again, he shall begin where he left off, whither at crowns or half-crowns; the same rule to be observed, though one or more years should be betwixt one declaration and another. Members distant above six miles, must send their declaration by certificate, attested by the minister and two church-wardens or elders of the parish where they are taken ill, certifying the nature, and time of their illness; the stewards being satisfied therewith, shall send their benefit. — The certificate to be repeated once every month if the illness

* The stewards to be allowed 6s. per quarter for expences; 3s. to be spent in the club-house, and 3s. at their own discretion.

illness continue; if not repeated, the stewards are to stop the benefit.* — If any due entitled member continues unable to work, after having received his full benefit of ten pounds, he shall be allowed one shilling per week from the fund, so long as he continues unable to earn four shillings a week for the maintenance of his family, with liberty to make some small endeavours himself; but if he recovers so far, as to be able to provide for that sum, he is then to declare off the fund in the same manner as when receiving full benefit, that the box be not impoverished thereby. No more than six pensioners to be allowed on the fund at one time; and an old member is always to have the precedency of a young one. All pensioners to call upon the stewards for their weekly allowance on the Saturdays, otherwise it is forfeited to the box. No pensioner to pay fines, funerals, nor anniversary dinners; nor no member, if taken by the enemy at sea, in the Merchants' service, is to pay any fines, funerals, nor anniversary dinners, if confined in foreign prisons, only the neat quarterage the same as the six pensioners.

No member, when receiving benefit, is to be seen intoxicated with liquor, nor quarrelling, nor out of his house, nor lodgings, after ten o'clock at night, from Lady-Day to Michaelmas, nor after eight o'clock from Michaelmas to Lady-Day, — nor acting any business, — nor go a mile from home without leave from the stewards.

A clear

* Any member being sick, or dying at sea, in camp or hospital, where such certificate cannot be obtained; a certification from the officers, or those present with the member, will intitle to the due benefit. — Charges for letters, certificates, &c. or sending benefit shall be deducted from it.

A clear intitled member, when he dies, shall be allowed three pounds, to be paid by the stewards, for funeral expences; and also a legacy of six pounds ten shillings to be paid on the quarter-day, to the widow or friend to whom it is bequeathed by will. All members' wives, or widows (if they continue their lawful and decent widows) to be allowed three pounds for their funeral expences, except the widows of such members as died before the 16th of May, 1793; they shall only be allowed fifty-shillings, the same as was formerly allowed for funeral expences. — No benefit in life, or at death, to member, wife, nor widow, if the illness, or death, of the person has been caused by his or her own fault, in rashness, intemperance, or irregularity of living or acting.

A member dying, before he has been a year and a day in the society, is intitled to three pounds for funeral expences, his wife the same.

ARTICLE V.

OF FUNERALS.

THAT out of the three pounds for funeral expences, there shall be a wainscot coffin provided for the deceased, and six shillings worth of drink to be taken from the club-house, or to be agreed for with the landlord. The twelve are to attend each funeral, within the bounds of warning, in a decent manner. Any of the twelve having a corp in their own family, are exempt without being fined. — The stewards and two eldest assistants are to support the pall. — The two youngest members to be bidders, and to have

have one shilling each for bidding, and the beadle one shilling for warning the twelve, to be paid out of the expences; the other two assistants and four committee-men are to attend decently, or be fined according to article 7th, if they do not send a substitute to act for them: the same decency to be observed at wives' or widows' funerals.* The company's mournings to be lent *gratis*, to each member, member's wife, widow, or children unmarried.† The funeral expences to be re-funded the next quarterly-meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE CLERK AND BEADLE.

THAT the society's clerk shall attend all meetings, shall sit in a convenient seat beside the stewards; — call the roll, and keep regular accounts of the society's affairs, — place in the book all fines given in to him by the stewards or assistants, and for neglect of duty he shall submit himself to the society's discretion. — His wages shall be two-pence for each member each quarter-day.

THE beadle shall, by order of the stewards, warn all the members, within one mile of the town walls, to attend all stated or occasional meetings,

* The seven to attend country funerals not exceeding six miles, and to be allowed 4d. a mile each.

† No member's father, mother, nor any stranger, to have the company's mournings without paying 4s. for the pall, 3s. for the scarfs, and 2s. for the cloaks; in all 9s. to be paid on their return from the funeral.

N. B. The person attending with the mournings, when lent, is to be allowed one shilling each time from the fund: he is also to be paid 7s. 6d. each quarter-day for taking care of the mournings and attending the company's funerals.

meetings, — when met, he shall stand at the door of the club-room, and call the absent members names three times; — take notice of, and give in to the stewards what indecencies he may observe in the club-room: — he shall do such of the society's business as the stewards shall require; — at all times appear decent when upon the society's business. His wages shall be one-penny for every member each quarter, a shilling for each funeral, a shilling for each bye-meeting, six-pence for warning the inspecting committee, a quart of beer each time the company, or committee, is warned; two pair of shoes in the year, and a new coat every two years.

ARTICLE VII.

OF FINES.*

THE Stewards, or any member calling a bye-meeting unnecessarily, without giving a lawful reason; to pay for a pint of beer for every member in the society; to be drunk before the company dismiss.

SEVEN AND SIX-PENCE FINE.

ANY member refusing to stand the office of steward, after being chosen by the company, if he was absent when nominated. — This extra half-crown is to defray the expence of the committee, if they should be called to choose another.

FIVE SHILLING FINES.

ANY member present in the club-room when nominated, refusing to stand the office of steward after

* No member impressed or forced into his Majesty's service against his inclination, to be fined; but they who enter, or go as substitutes, are liable to all fines.

after being chosen. — Assistants resigning their office after being chosen. — Any member insisting upon a vote in the society contrary to articles. — Any member, or widow, burying their partner in a fir coffin.

HALF-CROWN FINES.

BEATING or abusing brethren in, or out of the club-room. — Resisting when beaten in the club-room, before appealing for redress. — Any member giving information to the stewards, and not attending the committee, or full house, when warned as an evidence. — Disturbing the stewards or clerk while doing the society's business.

EIGHTEEN-PENCE FINES.

NOT standing the office of steward or assistant, when called upon.

ONE SHILLING FINES.

STEWARDS behind the hour on meeting-days; — neglect of duty; — neglecting to visit the sick; — not returning the sick-book within six days. — Members totally absent on the head-meeting day. — Refusing to pay fines. — Repeating grievances. — Being drunk on the *Sabbath-Day*. — Drunk at a funeral. — Swearing in the club-room. — Giving false information. — Returning to the same meeting, after being turned out for being disguised with liquor. — Secreting the company's meat or drink. — Bringing a stranger into the club-room. — Boasting of having escaped unfined for any fault. — Speaking disrespectfully of his Majesty King GEORGE, or the Royal Family; — against civil or ecclesiastical government or governors.

SIX-PENNY FINES.

ASSISTANTS behind the hour on meeting-days.
 — Any member not standing for the funeral committee, to be added to the fine of not standing steward or assistant; but if he stand, the former fine to be taken away. — Any of the twelve absent at a funeral, and not sending a substitute in their room. — Any member revealing or making public the company's secrets. — Total absence with money on quarter-days. — Not answering the roll on the head-meeting-day. — Absent at business, — at bye-meetings,* — at a vote. — Stopping a vote. — Refusing to vote when called upon. — Taking the word out of a brother's mouth, i. e. interrupting him when speaking. — Speaking two at once on any business. — Clicking at meat or drink before it is set down in the club-room by those who serve.

THREE-PENNY FINES.

THE clerk or any member on the inspecting, or company's committee, not attending at the hour when warned by the stewards order.† — Any member not taking and keeping his seat in the club-room. — Money not being paid when the roll of absents are called on quarter-days. — Not answering the roll at funerals or bye-meetings, — concealing or untimously revealing the faults of others.

NOTE. It is concealing or untimously revealing, when it is not given in to the stewards immediately, if committed in the club-room; or when committed in any other place, and not given in before the books are shut, at the next meeting.

* Country members, and those upon the water, or going when warned, are exempt.

† This fine is to be drunk before the committee dismiss. All other fines to go to the fund.

TWO

TWO-PENNY FINES.

MEMBERS being disguised with liquor in the club-room, — speaking when not called upon, — not being silent, — sitting with their hats on, — touching the box or books without orders, — going out of the club-room without asking leave of the stewards, while the books are open, — offering to hold or lay wagers, — calling the stewards by any other name than *Mr Steward*, — calling a brother by any other name than his christian name or *Brother*, — and, lastly, speaking reproachfully of any brother's person, occupation, or performance.

NOTE. Whatever causes or disputes arise amongst the members, or whatever information be given, every charge shall be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses; the witnesses to be members of the society, except the landlord or father of the box. — All fines not specified in the articles, to be levied at the company or committee's discretion. — Fines contracted on one meeting-day are payable the next; if contracted between meetings, to be booked, and intimated the next meeting.

If any member reproach any belonging to this society on account of the articles, he shall be fined at the society's discretion.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF EXCLUSION.

ANY member attempting, or persuading others to dissolve or break up the society. — Any member, clerk, or beadle attempting to borrow cash, whether by petition or otherwise, for their own private use. — Any member acting business, — going above a mile from home without leave from the stewards, — being drunk or quarrelling, — being out of his house or lodgings after ten o'clock from Lady-Day to Michaelmas, or after eight

eight o'clock from Michaelmas to Lady-Day, while on the benefit. — Any widow behaving disorderly, so as to become a reproach to the society. — Stewards not stopping benefit off sick members after hearing they have been at work, — not reporting it to the society. — Any member being half a year debtor on the books, — laying violent hands on box or books, — entering as a member into another society, — defiling themselves with unclean women, — committing adultery, — being guilty of any lewd, obnoxious, or disloyal practices, whereby he may be liable to public censure from church or state, — taking advantage of the society, — embezzling or attempting to embezzle their money, — rendering themselves incapable of business, or becoming a disgrace to the society. — Any who through malice, envy, hatred, or revenge, endeavour to make any of their brethren appear contemptible to this society, without assigning sufficient reasons to prove they are not worthy members of the community. — And, *finally*, such as are disorderly, fractious, contentious, ungovernable, and disobedient, who will not peaceably submit to the articles, or determination of the majority of this society, SHALL BE EXCLUDED.*

ARTICLE IX.

OF THE PERPETUITY AND OBLIGATION OF ARTICLES.

IT IS FINALLY AGREED, that this society shall never be broke up, nor its stock parted or divided

* None excluded to be re-admitted, but by a vote of the society, — and not at all if not qualified as article first directs.

divided amongst the members, whilst three or more of them are willing to the utmost of their power to support and carry it on. And that the safety, increase, and prosperity of the fund, and interests of its members may be always, and in all cases, a chief law and rule in this society; each member at entrance, shall make the following declaration:—

I do hereby promise before this society, that my real desire is to enter among them with a determined resolution, to support and defend their fund to the utmost of my power; and in such a manner, as I may be able to answer for my conduct before any authority, and also before this society.—I also assent and consent to the articles of this society, and whatever may be determined by the majority of the members for the better government thereof; and, I also promise, whether as a private member or trustee, to act, vote, and determine according to conscience, and the best of my understanding; without partiality, selfish views, or designs. IN WITNESS whereof, I subscribe my name to the list of members belonging this society.

* * * THE members of this society leave themselves at liberty to make such alterations in the articles, on half-year-days, as the majority of the members may see necessary.

FINIS.

